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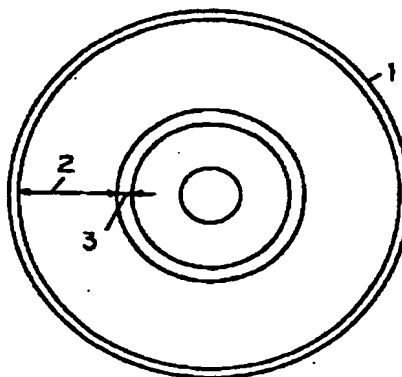
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(54) Optical information recording medium

(57) To present a stable tracking signal with less change, in a recording medium possessing a discontinuous control information recording region of track groove and a data region by a continuous track.

The track pitch of a preliminarily recorded control information pit portion region 3 is set larger than the track pitch of a data recording region 2 which is a continuous groove in a disk 1, and the tracking signal modulation degree of the both regions is nearly same, so that stable recording and reproducing may be realized.

Fig. 1.



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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an optical disk capable of recording and erasing high density information.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

An optical disk capable of recording and erasing high density information has each track divided into plural sectors in order to realize high speed access and high speed handling of data, in which track addresses and sector numbers are formed preliminarily in pits. Usually, drive control information relating to the disk is formed in pits over plural tracks on the disk, and the drive has the function of reading the control information when loading the disk into the drive so as to set various conditions of the drive. In the conventional disk, the track pitches were same in the information recordable region and control signal region. Accordingly, the differential signal amplitude in the state without tracking servo applied in order to follow the track is large in the continuous groove portion as shown in Fig. 4, and in the pit portions having control information, the amplitude of the tracking signal 14 is lowered to about 1/3 because the pit-free portions do not generate tracking signals, and thereby the tracking servo was unstable.

Thus, in the region composed of tracks continuous for at least a specific section, and forming control signals by pit structure or track deformation preliminarily, as compared with the data recording region used by the user for recording information, the tracking differential signal amplitude is lowered significantly. As a result, due to lowering of amplitude and S/N of the differential signal, and increase of influences of electrical and optical offset, the stability of tracking servo is lost. Besides, as the stability of tracking pitch becomes smaller, the degree of modulation of reading control signal information is lowered. Consequently, the reliability of reading control information is lost.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In the light of the above problems, the information recording medium of the invention is characterized by composing the control information recording region in a different geometrical profile from the data recording region of continuous groove, in order to stabilize the tracking servo of the control information recording region where high reliability is required in reading, and to suppress lowering of degree of modulation of reading signal, and varying at least one of the elements of geometrical profile, track pitch, track width, ratio of track width and track interval, and track depth, in the condition that the tracking signal amplitude may be nearly constant in the data recording region and control information recording region.

Moreover, as the condition effective for the system having a gain control circuit for normalizing the tracking signal by reflectivity, the degree of tracking modulation which is the ratio of the tracking signal amplitude and reflectivity is nearly constant in the data recording region and control information recording region.

By defining the pit width of the control information recording region narrower than the groove width of the data region of continuous groove, the degree of modulation in reproduction can be enhanced. Besides, by setting the track pitch of the control information recording region larger than the track pitch of the data recording region of continuous groove, the tracking differential signal amplitude can be set larger, and therefore stable operation of the tracking servo in the recording and reproducing apparatus may be realized, while the reading reliability of control information may be enhanced.

Still more, by further setting the pit depth of the control information recording region much deeper than the depth of continuous groove (usually $\lambda/8$, λ = laser beam wavelength), the signal modulation degree in reproduction can be improved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a top view showing a structure of a disk in an embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a waveform diagram of tracking differential signal according to an embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 3 is an essential perspective view showing a structure of a disk in other embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 4 is a waveform diagram of tracking differential signal in a prior art.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A first embodiment is shown in Fig. 1. The diagram is a structural diagram showing the top of a disk 1 having a track 3 of control information signal pit portion formed in the inner circumference of the disk. The control information signal pit portion and data recording region are both divided into sectors, and each sector has an address signal for access. When the track pitch of a continuous groove region 2 which is a data recording region is defined at 1.2 μm , and the track pitch of the control information signal pit portion region 3 which is a control signal recording region is defined at 1.6 μm , the tracking differential signal from the data recording region 2 to the control information signal pit portion region 3 is as shown in Fig. 2, in which lowering of tracking differential signal amplitude due to discontinuous pits of the control information signal pit portion can be guaranteed, so that there is almost no change in the continuous groove portion. Usually the control signal pit portion is pre-recorded in at least two or more tracks. It is also effective to form a changeover region at track

pitch of 1.6 μm in continuous groove, over one to ten tracks, in the tracks of the changeover portion of region.

In thus constituting, the tracking signal amplitude in both regions may be nearly identical. For example, the track pitches are explained at 1.2 μm and 1.6 μm , but they are variable with the laser wavelength to be used or the condition of the optical system for focusing the spot, and it is possible to realize at other track pitch values.

In the embodiment, the tracking signal amplitude is matched, but in the conventional recording and reproducing apparatus relating to the invention, the circuit for dividing the servo signal by the reflectivity and normalizing the amplitude is often incorporated, and therefore as an example of disk dealing with such apparatus, the track pitch of the continuous groove region 2 which is the data recording region is defined at 1.2 μm for example, and the track pitch of the control information signal pit portion region 3 which is the control signal recording region is defined at 1.4 to 1.5 μm for example, and since the reflectivity is slightly lowered due to scattering by pits in the control information pit portion region, the condition is set to lower the tracking signal amplitude also depending on its lowering rate, and the tracking differential signal from the data recording region after passing through the gain control circuit for normalizing at the reflectivity in the recording and reproducing apparatus to the control information signal pit portion region may be set almost the same as shown in Fig. 2, so that a further stabilization may be realized. By selecting the condition in this way, in order to set the degree of modulation of tracking error signal nearly same in the control information recording region and in other regions, the track pitch is varied, so that a stable tracking differential signal may be obtained.

Moreover, in the embodiment, the control information pit portion region is explained a certain region near the innermost circumference, but this is not limited, and depending on the specification of the recording and reproducing apparatus, it may be also provided in the outermost circumference, or in the middle portion of the disk, or, not limited to one location, in plural positions including the innermost circumference, outermost circumference and middle.

Other embodiment for suppressing lowering of tracking differential signal amplitude is explained. The degree of tracking signal modulation (the amplitude normalized by reflectivity) is generally determined by the relation of full width half maximum (FWHM) of laser spot and track pitch, but it makes use of the nature that the degree of tracking modulation is greatest near the track duty of 1 where the FWHM of a spot and track width coincide nearly with each other, and in the case of this embodiment, the FWHM of a spot is larger than the track width in the portion of continuous track and by noticing that the disk specification is determined where the tracking modulation degree is slightly lower, and hence the tracking pitch of the largest degree of tracking modulation was set in the control information recording region. In this embodiment, the track pitch is about 1.2

μm in the data recording region, and about 1.5 μm in the control information pit portion region, and by compensating for the lowering portion of the tracking signal amplitude, nearly same degree of tracking modulation can be realized in the entire disk, so that stable recording and reproducing may be realized.

As the track pitch becomes smaller depending on the request of high density recording, it is required to keep the relation between FWHM of the laser spot and track width almost constant, and therefore the track interval becomes smaller than the track width. At this time, the track width ratio, or the ratio of the track width and track interval, is 1 or less. When the track pitch is large, the track interval is wider, and hence the track width ratio is 1 or more.

A further different embodiment is shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, reference numerals 5 and 5b schematically show the pit row of control information pit portion, and relating to a separate arrangement of pits as in 5 and a modified example of continuous groove as in 5b, in which the shape similar to pits is realized and control information is recorded, but generally either format is used commonly on one disk. Reference numeral 6 shows a recording track by continuous groove in the data region, and it is used in recording the information of user. In part of the continuous groove, information of address or sector is recorded in a discontinuous form of track groove in the same depth as indicated by reference numeral 5, but it is not shown in the drawing. As mentioned above, as the geometrical condition of the track, by varying the track depth d_1 of the control information pit portion region so as to be different from the track depth d_2 in other regions, lowering of the tracking signal amplitude in the control information recording region can be suppressed. When the degree of modulation of tracking signal in the continuous groove portion reaches the maximum, the groove depth is $\lambda/8$. However, when the track pitch becomes narrower, it is appropriate to set slightly shallower than $\lambda/8$ in order to maintain the property of molding fidelity. Since the control information pit portion is a discontinuous undulated structure, a sufficient property of molding fidelity is obtained if equivalent to $\lambda/8$ or much deeper.

In the combinations above, matching of the tracking signal amplitude and tracking modulation degree in the control information pit portion region and in other regions is also included in the scope of the invention.

The invention is so far described by referring to the optical disk, but it is evident that it can be applied not only in disk-shaped media, but also in card-shaped media, and optical recording media in other shapes.

Thus, according to the invention, in the recording medium recording address information as discontinuous or modified form of track groove, and having control information recording region continuously recording address information and other control information in specific regions, by varying the geometrical conditions such as track pitch, track width ratio and depth between the control information recording region and other data

regions, the tracking modulation degree and tracking signal amplitude in the both regions may be nearly equal in the specific recording and reproducing apparatus conditions, so that a great effect is brought about in stabilization of recording and reproducing and enhancement of reliability, in a simple constitution.

Claims

1. An optical information recording medium comprising a information signal recording and reproducing track region of continuous groove having a specific depth and width, and a control information recording track region forming two or more tracks differing in the geometrical conditions from the recording and reproducing information recording track region. 5
2. An optical information recording medium of claim 1, wherein the track pitch is different as the geometrical condition of the control information recording track region. 10
3. An optical information recording medium of claim 2, wherein the track pitch of the control information recording track region is larger than the track pitch in other regions. 15
4. An optical information recording medium of claim 1, wherein the track width ratio which is the ratio of the track width and track interval is different as the geometrical condition of the control information recording track region. 20
5. An optical information recording medium of claim 4, wherein the track width ratio of the control information recording track region is about 1, and the track width in other regions is larger than 1. 25
6. An optical information recording medium of claim 4, wherein the track width ratio of the control information recording track region is about 1, and the track width in other regions is smaller than 1. 30
7. An optical information recording medium of claim 1, wherein the track depth is different as the geometrical condition of the control information recording track region. 35
8. An optical information recording medium of claim 7, wherein the track depth of the control information recording track region is larger than the track depth in other regions. 40
9. An optical information recording medium of claim 1, wherein the control information recording track region differs in at least one of the conditions of the track pitch, track width ratio and track depth, and the amplitude of the tracking signal which is a signal 45

for following up the track is nearly equal in both regions.

10. An optical information recording medium of claim 1, wherein the control information recording track region differs in at least one of the conditions of the track pitch, track width ratio and track depth, and the tracking modulation degree which is the ratio of the tracking signal of the control information recording track region and the reflectivity of the recording film in the same region, and the tracking modulation degree in other regions than the control information recording track region are almost equal. 50
11. An optical information recording medium of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, further comprising a recording layer capable of recording and reproducing, or recording, reproducing and erasing the information signals. 55
12. An optical information recording medium of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, wherein the control information recording track region is provided in the disk inner circumference.
13. An optical information recording medium of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, wherein the control information recording track region is provided in the disk outer circumference.

Fig. 1.

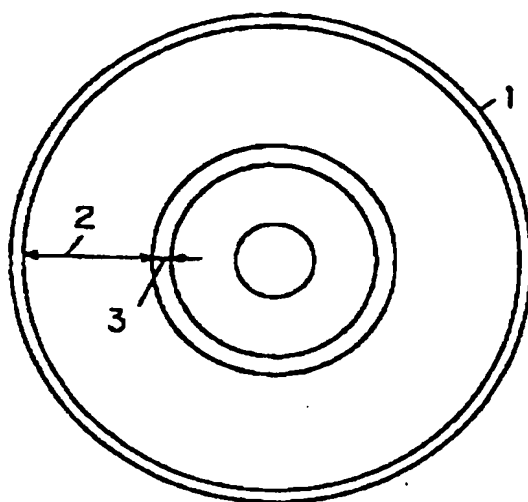


Fig. 2

Tracking signal

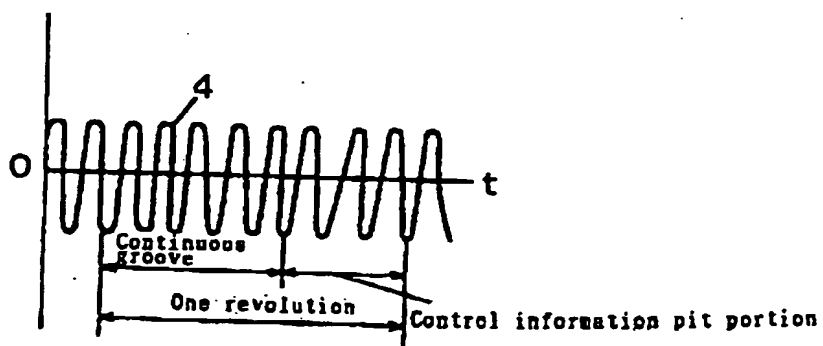


Fig. 3

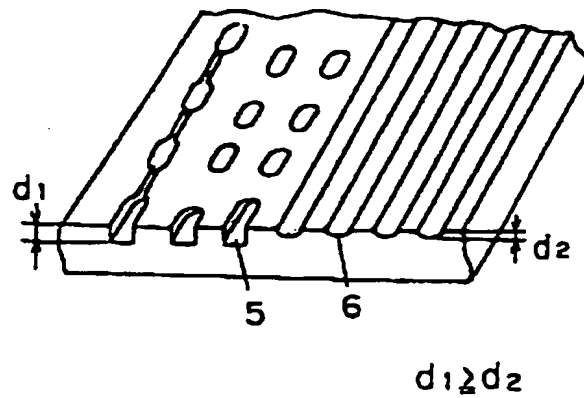
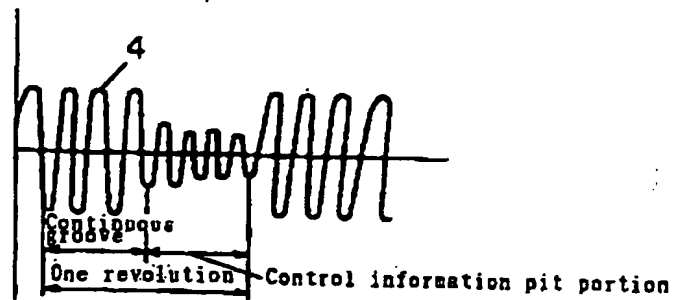


Fig. 4





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 10 6222

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP-A-0 546 525 (SONY CORP) 16 June 1993 * column 8, line 19 - line 37; figure 11 *	1,7-9, 11,12	G11B7/007 G11B7/09 G11B11/10
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 042 (P-1680), 21 January 1994 & JP-A-05 266491 (BROTHER IND LTD), 15 October 1993, * abstract *	1-3,11, 12	
X	EP-A-0 439 196 (SONY CORP) 31 July 1991 * the whole document *	1,4,11	
A	EP-A-0 559 449 (FUJITSU LTD) 8 September 1993 * page 2 - page 9 *	1,7,9,11	
A	US-A-5 220 556 (SHIMIZU AKIHIKO) 15 June 1993 * the whole document *	1-3	
A	EP-A-0 479 577 (CANON KK) 8 April 1992 * page 5, line 18 - page 6, line 35 *	1,4,7-11	G11B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 August 1996	Examiner Holubov, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons @ : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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